

1 SENATE BILL NO. 69

2 INTRODUCED BY D. WANZENRIED

3 BY REQUEST OF THE CAPITOL COMPLEX ADVISORY COUNCIL

4

5 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT NAMING THE FIRST FLOOR OF THE EAST WING OF THE
6 CAPITOL BUILDING IN HONOR OF FORMER REPRESENTATIVE FRANCIS BARDANOUVE; AMENDING
7 SECTION 2-17-808, MCA; AND PROVIDING A DELAYED EFFECTIVE DATE."

8

9 WHEREAS, Francis Bardanouve was a Blaine County farmer-rancher from near Harlem whose service
10 in the Montana Legislature spanned 5 decades; and

11 WHEREAS, he was first elected to the Montana House of Representatives in 1958 and reelected 17
12 times; and

13 WHEREAS, until his retirement in January 1995, he served a total of 18 sessions, 10 as the tight-fisted
14 chairman of the powerful House Appropriations Committee; and

15 WHEREAS, he was instrumental in establishing and transforming many of the institutions that most
16 Montanans simply take for granted; and

17 WHEREAS, he secured passage of legislation creating the Board of Investments, but only after traveling
18 at his own expense to several states to study their systems; and

19 WHEREAS, he spent time in each of the state mental and hospital institutions to experience them
20 firsthand and worked hard for better conditions, becoming the champion for the deinstitutionalization of many
21 patients warehoused at the state hospitals at Warm Springs and Boulder; and

22 WHEREAS, he pressed for funding of a full-time professional staff for the Legislative Council, replacing
23 a system in which lobbyists and corporate lawyers often drafted legislation; and

24 WHEREAS, he led the charge for the creation of the office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst that gave the
25 legislature the power to independently analyze and set budget policy and priorities for the state, and was fond
26 of telling stories about how funding for programs had previously been set by relying on individual legislators
27 keeping running totals on slips of paper they kept in their vest pockets and where analyses of any type did not
28 exist and justifications were largely a product of friendships; and

29 WHEREAS, of all of his many accomplishments, he often said he had but one regret in life, that he never
30 got to ride his horse over the beautiful landscape that encompassed the prison ranch at Deer Lodge; and

1 WHEREAS, he was still on the advisory board for the Montana State Prison when he died in March 2002
2 and, while in the Legislature, played a major role in turning the ranch from a business that consistently lost money
3 to a viable business enterprise; and

4 WHEREAS, Francis Bardanouve was a humble man who never cared much for recognition and raised
5 modesty to an art form; if he was aware of this proposal, he would likely kick up a fuss; and

6 WHEREAS, he was a compassionate man who always fretted about the well-being of his cattle, worrying
7 about whether they had enough water and grass; and

8 WHEREAS, Representative Bardanouve was an ardent advocate of education and often demonstrated
9 his dedication to and faith in the efficacy of higher education; and

10 WHEREAS, he was fearless and had a steel-trap mind; he was blessed with an earthy commonness that
11 is so uncommon among most elected officials; and

12 WHEREAS, he constantly reminded his colleagues never to forget where they came from and not to let
13 their positions go to their heads, commenting that "It never fails. All the sessions I have served in Helena, I go
14 back to Harlem and someone passes me on the street and says, "Francis, where have you been all winter? Did
15 you go down south?"; and

16 WHEREAS, Francis overcame a severe speech impediment after years of having been teased and
17 taunted, disappearing without explanation in the winter of 1946 and going to Pennsylvania to have surgery on
18 his cleft pallet; and

19 WHEREAS, the most remarkable part of his transformation into an inspirational and persuasive speaker
20 on the floor of the House of Representatives was when he met and later married Venus, his speech therapist,
21 who was the love of his life and who at age 50 made him a stepfather to her three children; and

22 WHEREAS, Representative Bardanouve's reputation and legend epitomize everything that is good and
23 honorable about public service; his life and contributions serve to remind us that very ordinary Montanans can
24 overcome adversity and perform remarkable feats; and

25 WHEREAS, this recommendation is a small commemoration for all that Francis Bardanouve, a beloved
26 son of Montana, contributed during his time in office and the examples he set for current and future public
27 servants.

28

29 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

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1 **Section 1.** Section 2-17-808, MCA, is amended to read:

2 **"2-17-808. Placement of certain busts, plaques, statues, memorials, monuments, and art displays.**

3 (1) The following busts, plaques, statues, memorials, monuments, and art displays are to be placed for up to 50
4 years, subject to renewal, in the capitol:

5 (a) the busts of Thomas J. Walsh, Burton K. Wheeler, and Joseph Dixon;

6 (b) the plaques commemorating Theodore Brantley, Fred Whiteside, the first Montana volunteers who
7 fought in the Spanish-American War, the construction of the capitol from 1899 to 1902, the 1972 Montana
8 constitutional convention, and the women legislators' centennial;

9 (c) the murals by Edgar S. Paxson, Ralph E. DeCamp, Charles M. Russell, Amedee Joullin, and F.
10 Pedretti and sons;

11 (d) the statues of:

12 (i) Wilbur Fiske Sanders;

13 (ii) Jeannette Rankin; and

14 (iii) Mike and Maureen Mansfield;

15 (e) the Montana statehood centennial bell;

16 (f) the gallery of outstanding Montanans;

17 (g) the Montana constitutional exhibit; ~~and~~

18 (h) the biographical descriptions of Montana's governors, to be placed near the portraits of the governors;

19 and

20 (i) a plaque commemorating former representative Francis Bardanouve and lettering naming the first
21 floor of the east wing of the capitol in honor of Francis Bardanouve.

22 (2) The following busts, plaques, statues, memorials, monuments, and art displays are to be placed for
23 up to 50 years, subject to renewal, on the grounds of the capitol:

24 (a) the statues of Thomas Francis Meagher and Lady Liberty;

25 (b) the plaques commemorating:

26 (i) Donald Nutter;

27 (ii) President George H. W. Bush; and

28 (iii) American prisoners of war and personnel of the United States armed services missing in action;

29 (c) two benches with plaques recognizing contributors to the 1997-2000 capitol restoration, repair, and
30 renovation project;

- 1 (d) the Montana centennial square; and
2 (e) the monument of the ten commandments.
- 3 (3) The following busts, plaques, statues, memorials, monuments, and art displays are to be placed for
4 up to 50 years, subject to renewal, on the capitol complex grounds:
- 5 (a) the statue by Robert Scriver entitled "symbol of the pros";
6 (b) the monuments to the liberty bell, the veterans' and pioneer memorial building--landscape
7 beautification project, Montana veterans, and Pearl Harbor survivors, and the peace pole;
8 (c) the sculptures of the herd bull and the eagle;
9 (d) the plaques commemorating the Montana national guard and Lewis and Clark; and
10 (e) the arrastra.
- 11 (4) The following busts, plaques, statues, memorials, monuments, and art displays are to be placed for
12 up to 50 years, subject to renewal, in state buildings on the capitol complex:
- 13 (a) the paintings of Dr. W. F. Cogswell and the paintings entitled "burning bush", "dryland farmer", "farm
14 girl", "the river rat", "top of the world", "angus #68", "the source", "the Bozeman trail", and "the Mullan road";
15 (b) the art displays known as "Montana workers--mining, ranching, and building", "copper city rodeo",
16 "dancing cascade", "save a piece of the sky", and "night light";
17 (c) the plaque commemorating Walt Sullivan, the plaque of the Sam W. Mitchell building, and the plaque
18 commemorating the original headquarters of the Montana highway patrol;
19 (d) the busts of Lee Metcalf and Sam W. Mitchell; and
20 (e) the plaque and Lou Peters award commemorating Karl Ohs.
- 21 (5) The senate sculpture depicting the Lewis and Clark expedition is to be placed for up to 50 years,
22 subject to renewal, on the west wall in the senate chambers.
- 23 (6) The council shall determine the specific placement of the items identified in subsections (1) through
24 (4)."

25
26 **NEW SECTION. Section 2. Effective date.** [This act] is effective March 18, 2012.

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